

A² (cont'd)
and said antisense RNA fragment form a double-stranded RNA molecule, and wherein the expression of said viral genome or portion thereof in said cell is reduced.

11. (amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said RNA molecule folds such that said RNA fragments comprised therein form a double-stranded region.

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12. (amended) A method for conferring resistance or tolerance to a virus upon a cell comprising the step of: introducing into a cell a first DNA sequence capable of expressing in said cell a sense RNA fragment of a viral genome or portion thereof and a second DNA sequence capable of expressing in said cell an antisense RNA fragment of said viral genome or portion thereof, wherein said sense RNA fragment and said antisense RNA fragment form a double-stranded RNA molecule, and wherein the expression of said viral genome or portion thereof in said cell is reduced.

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23. (amended) The method of claim 22, wherein said RNA molecule folds such that said RNA fragments comprised therein form a double-stranded region.

A⁵
46. (amended) The cell of claim 52, wherein the expression of said viral genome or portion thereof in said cell is reduced by said RNA fragments.

A⁶
48. (amended) The cell of claim 52, wherein said cell is a plant cell.

62. (amended) A cell comprising the two RNA sequences of claim 8, wherein said cell further comprises a sense RNA fragment and an antisense RNA fragment of said viral genome or portion thereof.

A⁷
63. (amended) A DNA construct comprising:

- (a) a first DNA sequence capable of expressing in a cell a sense RNA fragment of a viral genome or portion thereof and a second DNA sequence and capable of expressing in said cell an antisense RNA fragment of said viral genome or portion thereof, wherein said sense RNA fragment and said antisense RNA fragment form a double-stranded RNA molecule,
- (b) a first promoter operably linked to said first DNA sequence, and
- (c) a second promoter operably linked to said second DNA sequence.

64. (amended) The DNA construct of claim 63, wherein the expression of said viral genome or portion thereof in said cell is reduced.

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69. (amended) A DNA construct comprising a first DNA sequence capable of expressing in a cell a sense RNA fragment of a target gene and a second DNA sequence capable of expressing in said cell an antisense RNA fragment of said target gene, wherein said sense RNA fragment and said antisense RNA fragment form a double-stranded RNA molecule, wherein said DNA construct further comprises a bi-directional promoter operably linked to said first DNA sequence and to said second DNA sequence.

Cancel claims 41-44 and 71, without prejudice.

Cancel claims 45 and 53-55, 66, 67, 68, and 72 without prejudice.

Please add claims 73-75 as follows:

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73. (new) The cell of claim 59, wherein the expression of said viral genome or portion thereof in said cell is reduced, wherein said DNA sequences are expressed.

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74. (new) The DNA construct of claim 63 wherein said RNA fragments comprise a nucleotide sequence encode or are derived from a viral coat protein gene, a viral nucleocapsid protein gene, a viral replicase gene, a movement protein gene or portions thereof.

75. (new) The DNA construct of claim 69 wherein said RNA fragments comprise a nucleotide sequence encode or are derived from a viral coat protein gene, a viral nucleocapsid protein gene, a viral replicase gene, a movement protein gene or portions thereof.

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, claims 1-40, 46-52, 56-65, 69-70 and 73-75 are pending. Claims 41-44 and 71 have been withdrawn by the Examiner as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Claims 41-44, 45, 53-55, 66-68, 71 and 72 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve their right to prosecute subject matter of the canceled claims in subsequent applications. Claims 73-75 have been added by amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a method for conferring resistance or tolerance to a virus upon a cell, plant or animal by introducing RNA fragments that form a double-stranded RNA molecule. Support for these amendments is in the specification on page 2, lines 28-30, and page 13.

Claims 1, 11, 12, 23, 63, 69 and 72 have been amended to recite the RNA fragments form a double-stranded RNA molecule. Support for these amendments is in the specification on page 13.